

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T
NOFORN

- 2 -

Hour

0412 The first bridge section or raft (consisting of three complete pontoon boats, together with balks) had been completed and had been towed into position against the pier.

0419 The second bridge section (three complete boats with balks) was **completed..**

0422 The second bridge section was towed and held into position by a motor-boat.

0431 The third bridge section was completed.

0435 The third bridge section was towed into position; the first and second sections had been anchored.

0450 The fourth bridge section was completed.

0451 10 motor-boats with infantry personnel crossed from east to west bank apparently to reinforce the bridge-head troops. The boats returned at 0454 hours to the east bank.

0459 Fifth bridge section complete and in position.

0500-0515 All trucks had been unloaded and the bridge parts etc., stored under tree cover on the east bank. All the empty trucks then drove approximately 100 meters deep into the woods near Steutz.

0500-0515 40 trucks with TMP pontoon sections, and 17 trucks with personnel and inflatable rubber boats arrived at the site on the east bank.

0530 All newly arrived pontoons had been unloaded into the water. Work continued on joining the sections into pontoon boats and these pontoon boats into bridge sections (rafts).

0530-0550 12 further bridge sections were towed into position, each by one motor-boat, and anchored.

0530-0545 All trucks moved, empty, into wooded cover.

0550-0615 Road bearers laid. (These consisted of two steel channel girders, the width of a truck between them; one carrying the offside and the other the near-side wheels).

0620 The bridge completed. Three trucks, each with 20 infantrymen crossed the bridge and simulated the consolidation of the bridge-head on the west bank. (Note: At no time was a proper road surface laid on the bridge. The trucks drove across with their wheels supported by the channel girders. No other traffic crossed the bridge and no armor was seen).

0635 The three trucks returned and smoke candles were lit on the east bank (an east wind was blowing). To protect themselves against the smoke, which covered the whole bridge, the bridge-head troops returned across the bridge on foot. The rubber boats were not used at any time.

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- 3 -

Hours

0640 During the final stages of completion of the bridge, small ball-shaped charges were hung on to the anchor links of each pontoon section. These were joined together by cable and at 0640 hours were detonated simultaneously, simulating the blowing-up of the bridge.

0650 The smoke had cleared and work began on the disassembling of the bridge.

0700-0900 The trucks were loaded and formed up gradually in a convoy — on the Aken-Steutz road.

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Comment:

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The details, although not entirely complete, represent the best efforts in reporting these multiple activities.

the bridge was a medium bridge intended for infantry and light vehicles.

the trucks using the bridge drove with 50-meter intervals between them. Since no decking was laid, the bridge could not have been used for amphibious vehicles or vehicles other than the trucks which actually crossed.

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Explanation of Terms:

Pontoon section:	bow or center section.
Pontoon boat :	boat consisting of two bow and one center pontoon sections.
Pontoon raft or bridge section :	bridge section consisting of three boats joined by metal beams.

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